

**Andrew Lewis to George Washington, March 9, 1774,
Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers.
Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of
America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.**

FROM MAJOR ANDREW LEWIS.

RICHFIELD BOTETOURT COUNTY March 9th 1774

DEAR SIR—

Your favour by Mr. Young I recd. and am Sorry as Matters have turned out that I did not instid of returning You Your Warants &c. Put them in the hands of the diffrant Surveyers which would have saved you the expence of this Express. however this is the Only loss You can sustain on that Account As fare as I can judge for I have kept it a secreat, that those two Surveys You Send ye worth of are Not Part of ye 200000 Acres—My Son Who is Surveyer of this County is Out on Green-Brier Surveying & Will not return from that Quarter for some time. however as I am soon to go out to that place Shall Put Your Warrant in his hand and as he will have other Lands to Survey in that Quarter shall desire that he or his Assistant shall go down and Survey Yours in Particular so that if Posable ye Works may be Sent down to You in Williamsburg before the last of the Approching Session of Assembly If you Will take the trouble To look in the Law with regard to ye appointment of Surveyers and theire duty in that Office. You will with me be of Opinion with me that a Patent Procured on the Works which You desire to be Signed, would be ilegal and Voyd to all intents & purposes If ever it came to be disputed, Not to Mention Anything of the Surveyer forfeiting is Bond. Doctr. Connolys Obtaining a Patent in a way similar to what You desire, has made so great a Noise that it is in every bodys Mouth & in Particular the Lawyers who say that it may be set aside at any time, and indeed a man who has a

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Warant for two thousand Acres has entred the Very Land that ye Docter Obtained a Patent for, & I am told is incuraged & inclined to disput ye matter. So that on the whole My Dr. Sir I would advise You by all means to strictly follow ye Steps of the Law that your title afture Obtaining it may be Proof aganst ye Artifices of Designing Men. I have wrote by Mr. Young to Colo. Preston and desired him in case he should think you and himself unsafe in immediately signing a certificat of ye Work as done by Mr. Crawford to Order one of his Surveyers as they go down to ye Ohio to Survey ye Lands by the Works You have sent him and to send you ye certificat so that you may have it at Williamsburg. Apriel ye 14th day is the time Advertized in the Gazee. for the Diffrant Claiments to met ye Surveyers at ye Mouth of ye Great Kanawa, so that by all Probability an Oppertunity will offer of sending the Field Work to Colo. Preston so that You may have Certificat as above. As soon as I see the Clark of this County I shall direct him to apply to the Aprl. Court, for we have no Court this Month, for an Order to Value Your Improvements. but whether ye Court will Issue it Blank or not is the doubt, it is Customary to Name ye Persons in ye Order. but a still greater Objection stands in the way. that of having The Men Who Makes ye Valuation Sworen by a Majestrate of this County, and indeed I do not at Present know of any that will be in that quarter about that time. If no such Opportunity should Offer it would be best to have ye Men Sworn before A Justice at Fort Pitt as I understand there are Several in that quarter added to ye didemos of Augusta. This would not be exactly according to Law but it is the only remedde I can think of—

For some days past we have had repeted advices by travelers that the Creeks Cherokees & Chocktaws have joined in a war aganst Our Southeran Provinces, that a Number of familys were cut off that since that first strock several Battles have been fought in the most of which ye Indians had the Advantage. at first I payed but little regard to those reports. but since I wrote ye above I am from certant Information persuaded that it is a Melancoly truth several Persons' who has been Eye Witnesses of the dredfull effects of Savage Cruelty, & they further add that five-hundred Creeks are at this time amongst the Cherokees prepared to make a stroke, but where no person can tell. So Allarming is the Accts. that

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Our Settlers on The Holston & other Rivers in that quarter are Forting up & Scouts are Kept out to watch the approach of ye Enemy. Indeed I am afraid that the Ohio Indians are in the Plot at least I am confident that they were Acquainted of the designs of ye Southern Indians. And that nothing deters them from Joining the others but their being so Near Neighbours to Our Settlements below Fort Pitt. They ought to be Strictly Watched from Fort Pitt & if it can be discovered that they are about to Move their families they may be expected Open Enemies. If those troubles encroach or even continue it will put a stop to Our designs On ye Ohio, I was Obligated to Lay aside this Letter for an hour or two in Order to Make the Governour Acquainted with the Reports. as Capt. Russell of Fincastle is on his way in behalf of Our Holston Settlements—

I hope to have the Pleasure of seeing You in Williamsburg On the Assembly. Were it not for that Meeting I should have thought, and indeed was fully determined to take a trip down the Ohio, as well to see the Country in general as to have my 5000 Acres Laid off, but how far we might be Justifiable in laying Ourselves at the Mercy of the Savages, as Matters are like to turn Out, is to be considered. however in a short time we shall be able to judge better of their dispositions & connections—

I hope to be able to discharge the Account. You inclosed Me on Our Meeting in May at which time I shall mention my thoughts as to ye Manner Mr. Crawford has Laid off Our Lands Some of us has Suffered exceedingly by the taking in bad Lands without his being under the Least Necessity of so doing only that ye Surveying it to Advantage would have taken a little more time & trouble, I shall be more particular when I see You. I heartily wish that John Smiths Lot which I payed him for had been Patented in my Name or rather that I had been Mentioned in the Patent as Assignee of John Smith. I have been told that he has been tempted by a Man Who I know to be a Villian to sell it, but perhaps My Not leaving Smiths Assignment with You may be the cause of Smiths Name being in ye Patent in [mutilated] of mine. this may give me some trouble tho I think [mutilated] loose ye Lands I

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shall put an end to a letter spu [mulilated] to an unreasonable Lenth. by saying that I am with [mutilated]

Regard Dr. Sir Youre Most Obedt. Servant ANDW. LEWIS